(v) Financial incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas as also for utilisation of solid waste such as fly ash and phospho-gypsum.

(vi) Compensation for the damage as a disincentive for those handling hazardous substances is provided under the public Liability Insurance Act.

(vii) Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in some of the identified critically polluted areas.

(viii) Gross and mass emission standards for all types of vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(ix) Draft notification in respect of mass emission standards for petrol and diesel driven vehicles for the year 1995 has been issued under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(x) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative fuel for petrol and diesel in major metropolitan cities.

(xi) Public awareness campaigns have been launched.

Violation of Forest conservation Act

1351. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any violation of Forest Conservation Act in the country in order to fulfil populist schemes for urban and rural poor;

(b) if so, the details of the same; and

(c) whether any corrective steps are taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Prior Approval of the Central Government is required under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 before diverting forest land for any non-forestry uses. Number of instances have come to the notice of the Central Government, where diversion of forest land for non-forestry uses have been permitted without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the Act. In such cases the concerned State/UT Governments are asked to fix responsibility for violation of the Act. Final decision for diversion of forest land in such cases is taken after considering all the relevant information including circumstances leading to violation of the Act, action taken against the officials found guilty for violation of Forest (Conservation) Act.

Action Plan for the Damodar River System

1352. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed draft action plan for the Damodar river system water quality management has since been prepared and reviewed by the advisory committee set up for the purpose; and

(b) if so, details of the said action plan ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The scheme of pollution abatement of river Damodar is under formulation by the concerned State Governments. Details in this regard are being worked out.

Increasing Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

1353. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing menace of pollution in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details of the trends in pollution hazards in each metropolitan city over last five years; and

(c) what measures have been taken/proposed to be taken to contain pollution through fresh administrative/legislative action ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board has estimated that the major causes of pollution

in metropolitan areas are vehicular emissoins and domestic wastes. Air pollution levels in these cities are by and large within the prescribed limits and continue to remain so. While the level of Sulphure dioxide and oxides of Nitrogen are well within the limits, particulate matter in these cities, except in Madras is on the higher side. This is mainly due to the presence of dust and the high density of vehicular traffic. Water pollution in these cities is being by and large contained at present.

(c) The measures taken to control pollution include :—

(i) Effluent, emission and ambient noise standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Board to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated standards;

(iii) The State Pollution Control Boards have been directed to monitor compliance to the prescribed standards within a timeframe. Action under the provisions of the Act is taken against the defaulting units.

(iv) An action plan for compliance has been formulated for large and medium industries in the 17 critically polluting categories.

(v) Scheme for construction/augmentation of sewage and drainage system and for treatment of sewage have been taken up on metropolitan cities.

(vi) Gross and mass emission standards for all vehicles manufactured from April, 1995 have been notified under the Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce the gross emission standards.

(vii) Public Awareness campaigns have been launched about vehicular pollution.

(viii) The petroleum industry has been asked to bring down the lead content in petrol to 0.15 grams/litre by 1993.

(ix) Steps have been initiated to use compressed natural gas as a fuel for transport in cities where this is available.

Report on poaching of tigres and other animals in Ranthambore

1354. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the enquiry report submitted by the Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue, Rajasthan Government shows that there were cases of poaching of tigers and other animals in Ranthambore;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to stop the poaching ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There has been some evidence of poaching the extent of which is not known.

(c) The steps taken by the Rajasthan Government to stop poaching in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve are as under :

1. Vacancies at the ranger's level have been filled up and some new posts of protective staff have been sanctioned.

2. Field Director has been authorised to hire jeeps for patrolling purposes in addition to placing one jeep and one small truck at his disposal to provide mobility to staff.

3. The Field Director has been advised to ensure regular patrolling in villages and agricultural farms around the park to guard against the poachers.

4. Steps have been initiated for providing arms to the patrolling staff.

Pollution Control Projects

1355. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI :

SHRI M. D. SALIM :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to involve U. S. firms for pollution control projects in the country; and